

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 INR-01 PRS-01 /005 W

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O R 270930Z APR 74 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
TO RUEHFO/USINFO WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5911
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY SAIGON
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
SECDEF WASHDC

UNCLAS PHNOM PENH 5983

USINFO ALSO FOR IOP/FW
USINFO ALSO FOR VOA NEWSROOM
USINFO ALSO FOR IEA
BANGKOK FOR HEDGES
BANGKOK, HONG KONG AND SAIGON FOR VOA CORRESPONDENTS
STATE FOR S/PRS AND EA/P
SECDEF FOR OSAD/PA

E. O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: KHMER SITUATIONER-APRIL 27, 1974

1. COMMUNIST ACTIVITY AT KAMPOT FRIDAY WAS LIMITED TO
A NUMBER OF LIGHT MORTAR ATTACKS ON GOVERNMENT POSITIONS
NORTHWEST, WEST AND SOUTHEAST OF THE CITY. NO SIGNIFI-
CANT FANK OPERATIONS WERE REPORTED. AT TAKEO, A FANK
OPERATION EAST OF THE CITY KILLED TWO COMMUNIST SOLDIERS
AND SEIZED A SMALL STOCK OF WEAPONS. LIGHT COMMUNIST
MORTAR ATTACKS WERE REPORTED SOUTHEAST OF TAKEO.

2. THE SITUATION AT PREY VENG REMAINED CALM ON FRIDAY,
ALTHOUGH KHMER AIR FORCE C-123 TRANSPORT PLANES FLEW IN
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MAJOR TROOP REINFORCEMENTS DURING THE DAY. ELSEWHERE IN THE REPUBLIC, FANK REPORTED NO CASUALTIES FROM LIGHT COMMUNIST MORTAR ATTACKS AT KOMPONG THOM, BAMNAK AND DAS KANCHOR NEAR THE COMMUNIST CUT ON HIGHWAY 4 TWENTY-FIVE KILOMETERS SOUTHWEST OF KOMPONG SPEU.

3. IN THE PHNOM PENH AREA ON FRIDAY, COMMUNIST FORCES LAST NIGHT ATTACKED FANK PARA BRIGADE ELEMENTS ON THE EAST BANK OF THE MEKONG NORTHEAST OF THE CITY. RESULTS OF THE FIGHTING ARE NOT YET KNOWN. COMMUNIST FORCES ARE REPORTED TO HAVE INTERDICTED A SHORT SECTION OF HIGHWAY 1 TWENTY-FIVE KILOMETERS SOUTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH.

4. FIGHTING CONTINUED FRIDAY IN THE ROUTE 30 CORRIDOR SOUTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH WHERE FANK REPORTED THAT GOVERNMENT TROOPS WITHDREW FROM AN OUTPOST AT PO SANH SOUTH OF SVAY ROLUM ON THE SOUTH BANK OF THE BASSAC RIVER. FANK SUSTAINED LIGHT CASUALTIES AND LOST AN ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIER. NORTH OF PHNOM PENH ON HIGHWAY 5, THE FANK 5TH BRIGADE CONTINUED ITS EFFORTS TO RETAKE KRUOS.

5. PRIME MINISTER LONG BORET NARROWLY ESCAPED AN EXPLOSION AT 2130 HOURS (PHNOM PENH TIME) LAST NIGHT WHICH KILLED TEN PEOPLE AND INJURED TWENTY-SIX OTHERS. THE PRIME MINISTER WAS LEAVING A WEDDING DINNER AT THE HOME OF A GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL WHEN THE EXPLOSION OCCURRED IN THE STREET ABOUT THIRTY METERS BEHIND HIS CAR. GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES ARE INVESTIGATING THE CAUSE OF THE INCIDENT. NO ARREST HAVE BEEN MADE.

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